

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6888**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1364

**DATE PREPARED:** Dec 20, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Various Election Law Changes.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Chris Baker

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**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill changes the maximum size of a precinct from 1,200 active voters to 2,000 active voters, with certain exceptions. The bill also provides that a county election board may establish the number of voters a precinct may contain that permits the precinct to have its polls located at the same location as another precinct. It changes the application deadline for voting an absentee ballot before a traveling board from noon the day before election day to 8 a.m. the day before election day. The bill also provides that an absentee traveling board may not visit a voter later than noon on the day before election day. This bill makes conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2002.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Indiana Election Commission may have additional administrative expenditures, as a result of the proposal, concerning mailing of notices to inactive voters. The Commission should be able to absorb these expenditures given its current budget.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** If the number of active voters in a precinct were increased, as the proposal would require, a reduction in expenditures could result for counties. An active voter is defined by statute as a voter who satisfies either of the following: A) The voter has registered or voted in any election during the preceding four years at the address indicated on the voter's registration record or; B) The voter has not voted in any election during the preceding four years at the address indicated on the voter's registration record and has responded in writing to an address confirmation notice sent by the Election Commission not later than thirty days after the notice was sent.

The Indiana Election Commission is updating a file of active voters. However, final numbers for all counties were not yet available at the time of preparation of the fiscal note. Therefore, for purposes of this note,

registered voter (active and inactive voters) data was utilized.

As of the 2000 general election, there were 5,530 precincts in Indiana. If precincts' active voter size increased to 2,000 voters, there could be a reduction in the number of precincts by approximately 2,200. The statewide average precinct size among registered voters as of the 2000 general election was 723. Only DeKalb County had over 1,200 registered voters for the 2000 general election. Several other counties had over 1,000 but less than 1,200 registered voters. Given the number of registered voters, it is probable that every precinct in the state is below 1,200 active voters as of the 2000 general election. However, based on U.S. Census estimates, population growth in the several counties including several of the "doughnut" counties surrounding Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Morgan, and Shelby) has increased at a faster rate than many other counties in the state. The following table shows these counties' population growth ranked by population percent change over 1990-2000.

<b>County</b>	<b>4/1/00 Estimate</b>	<b>4/1/90 Population Estimates Base</b>	<b>Numeric Population Change 1990-2000</b>	<b>Percent Population Change 1990-2000</b>	<b>Annualized Percent Change 1990-2000</b>
Hamilton	182,740	108,936	73,804	68%	5.31%
Hendricks	104,093	75,717	28,376	37%	3.23%
Johnson	115,209	88,109	27,100	31%	2.72%
Owen	21,786	17,281	4,505	26%	2.34%
Noble	46,275	37,877	8,398	22%	2.02%
Hancock	55,391	45,527	9,864	22%	1.98%
Jasper	30,043	24,823	5,220	21%	1.93%
Steuben	33,214	27,446	5,768	21%	1.93%
Boone	46,107	38,147	7,960	21%	1.91%
Morgan	66,689	55,920	10,769	19%	1.78%

With fewer precincts, counties would reduce the number of precinct election boards. Currently, precinct election officers are appointed by the county election board, except in Lake and Tippecanoe County where the officers are appointed by a combination of an election board and registration board. A precinct has the following officers:

<b>Type of Officer</b>	<b>Number</b>
Inspector	1
Judge	2
Poll Clerk	2
Sheriff	2
Asst. Poll Clerk	2 (Optional)

The county executive is allowed by statute to fix a per diem and a meal allowance for work performed on election day by the above listed officers. For municipal elections, the town fiscal body fixes compensation. In addition, an inspector can receive additional compensation for the duties of acquisition and return of election supplies to the circuit court clerk's office.

In future elections, as counties potentially update their voting systems, savings could be experienced if fewer

voting machines were required, especially if more precincts were able to be located in a single polling place. Additionally, the proposal may prevent the division of some large residential units, such as apartment/condo complexes or dormitories, into separate precincts.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Election Commission.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Election Commission; U.S. Bureau of Census.